

**Congregational Church
of Westminster West
A United Church of Christ**

November 24, 2024
*Reign of Christ / Thanksgiving
Stewardship Sunday*

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Amy Cann

*Call to Worship



One: We have chosen to be here, where God remembers us.

All: God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

O: Like leaves skipping over the carpet of grass:

A: God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

O: Like the first glimpses of the sun peeking over the horizon:

A: God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

O: Like the moon lighting our way on a cloudless, autumn night:

A: God comes to us, the One who was and is and is to come.

*Hymn No. 462 “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”

Pilgrim

*Come, ye thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
all is safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin;
God, our Maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.*

*All the blessings of the field,
all the stores the gardens yield,
all the fruits in full supply,
ripened 'neath the summer sky,
all that spring with bounteous hand
scatters o'er the smiling land,
all that liberal autumn pours
from her rich o'er-flowing stores.*

These to thee, our God, we owe,

*source whence all our blessings flow;
and for these our souls shall raise
grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then, thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home;
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home. Amen.*

Prayer of Confession (*seated*) ✧

All: Love that knows no boundaries: we crowd our lives with so much activity, that it is hard to find time for you. We become so focused on ourselves, we can overlook those around us who are searching for hope. We fill our spiritual emptiness with junk, rather than feasting on your Word.

Abundant Mercy, forgive us. Open our eyes, that we may see your new covenant written in plain sight on our hearts. Open our hearts, that we may join you in serving the broken of the world. Open our love, so we may pour it out as abundantly and graciously as your love is given to us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior..

Assurance of Pardon

One: Beloveds, one fact remains that does not change: God has loved you, loves you now, and will always love you. Through that love as lived and shared by Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven and we are set free into new life.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Gloria No. 756 (*see inside back of hymnal*)

Prayers of the People

L: May the Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Let us pray.

Joys and Concerns

Silence

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father/Mother/Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And let us not fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Commitments

Prayers

I commit to pray for myself, my friends and my enemies, and for the needs of the world, no matter how overwhelming they may be.

Presence

I commit to remain present to my soul, and to the Maker of my Soul. I commit to remain present to Christians around the world, people of faith around the world, and the needs of my family, my community and my church. I commit to become present to other people of faith along the way, and to support them along their journeys as well. I commit to be present to the still, small voice, and the everyday miracles of life.

Gifts

I commit to understanding myself as abundantly gifted in this world: in faith, in curiosity and in humanity. To understand that I have been endowed with gifts that make a difference. I commit to being generous with my finances, my faith and my friendship to make a difference for the Kingdom of God.

Service

I commit to giving myself away in service. As a follower of Jesus, I commit myself in service to the poor, the forgotten, the hurting, the hungry, the “other”. I seek the way of peace, without losing myself in people-pleasing. I seek the way of love, even when it calls for tough love. I seek the way of justice, without being vengeful.

Witness

I commit to living a life worth emulating. To let my light shine and not hide it under a bushel basket. To live in such a way that others want to know God as well.

Local Commitment

I commit to supporting the work of this church family through presence in worship, generosity in giving, open-heartedness and authenticity in relationships within the congregation and wider community.

(from an article by Rebekah Simon-Peter, written at ministrymatters.com : “DIY Membership Vows”; altered a bit)

Scripture Lessons Jeremiah 36: 1-8, 21-23, 27–28
 Jeremiah 31: 31-34
 Luke 22: 19-20

*Hymn No. 29 “Now Thank We All Our God” *Pilgrim*
*Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices,
who, from our mothers’ arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and she who reigns with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore. Amen.*

Reflection

Offering of New Pledges, Building Fund, and Weekly Offering

Offertory

*Doxology *Praise God from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God for all that Love has done.
Creator, Christ and Spirit, One.*

*Litany of Dedication

One: Creator of all, the earth is yours,
the world and all who live in it.

**All: You have entrusted us with gifts—
time, talent, energy, money—
and asked us to use them to build your kingdom.
With thanks and praise we respond to your call.**

One: We bring these gifts you have given,
returning your generosity, paying it forward.

**All: We offer ourselves, our lives, our hopes and fears,
our dollars and our hours.**

**We commit ourselves to work for your world,
to love and serve wherever you call.**

One: We ask your blessing on this, your church,
as we seek to follow you with heart, mind, and soul.

All: Bless also these gifts, our investment in your future,

available at other times by appointment. *In the lead-up to early January, she will be setting aside extra time for pastoral care visits, so don't hesitate to ask for an appointment!* The fastest ways to reach Susie are via cell (**802-579-8356**) or email (**susiewt@gmail.com**). She reserves Mondays as her Sabbath day, holding that day aside as non-working time.

*We're grateful for Amy Cann's willingness to be our substitute musician today and multiple other days in Eric's season of absence!

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 29 & 30: **Soup Sale:** sign up to make and/or serve soup, offer hospitality, or do set up / clean up and the like.

Dec. 1: Advent 1: David Mulholland preaching, Fred Gray, musician

Dec. 7: **Greening of the Sanctuary** 9:30

Dec. 8: Advent 2: Susie preaching, Amy Cann, musician

Dec. 15: Advent 3: Susie preaching, Fred Gray musician

Dec. 22: **7 PM: Community Candlelight & Carols service** in the sanctuary. No AM service that day.

Dec. 24: **11 PM Christmas Eve service.** Susie leading, Amy Cann musician.

Dec. 29: Sunday-after-Christmas all request Carol (and hymn) sing. Susie leading, Amy Cann musician.

✧Attributions: Our Call to Worship and prayer of Confession are written by Rev. Thom Shuman, whose worship resources blog is entitled "Lectionary Liturgies."